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ABSTRACT

This bulletin presents National Crime Survey (NCS) data updating the preliminary estimates of crime victimization in 1987, which were released in March, 1988. Statistics are presented which show that the overall level of crime increased marginally, while the victimization rate remained stable over the year. The NCS practice of measuring both crimes reported to the police and crimes not reported to the police is explained and data are presented which indicate that reporting rates have increased significantly since the survey first began in 1973. Tables and figures are included which illustrate: (1) victimization trends, 1973-1987; (2) victimization levels for selected crimes (violent crimes, personal theft, and household crimes), 1973-1987; (3) changes in victimiation levels and rates for personal and household crimes, 1986-1987; (4) victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-1987; (5) comparison of changes in victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-1987; (6) trands in victimization rates of personal crimes, 1973-1987; (7) trends in victimization rates of household crimes, 1973-1987; (8) victimization rates for personal and household crimes, by region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West), 1986-1987; (9) reporting victimizations to the police, 1973-1987; (10) trends in reporting crimes to the police, 1973-1987; and (11) preliminary estimates and final results for 1987 victimization levels and rates. (NB)

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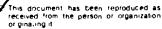
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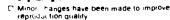
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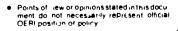


Bulletin

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Office of Educational Resear of and Improvement EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)











Criminal victimizations in the United States increased by nearly 613,000 to about 34.7 million in 1987 for persons age 12 and older, according to the National Crime Survey (NCS). This 1.8% increase in overall crimes ended a trend tha saw criminal victimizations reduced in 1986 to their lowest level in the 15-year history of the NCS; however, as in 1985, overall crime was about 16% below the 41.5 million victimizations reported in the peak year of 1981 (figure 1 and table 1). The increase in the number of victimizations was largely caused by an increase in household crimes, which rose 2.3% from the 1986 level of 15.4 million.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

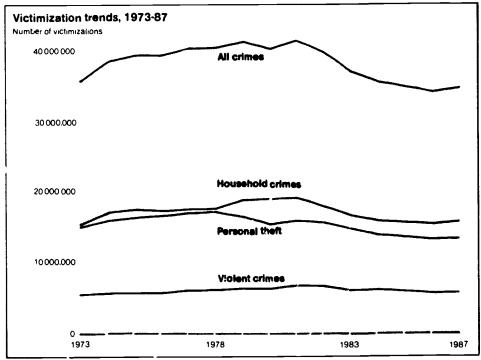
Although there was a slight increase in the total number of victimizations in 1987, victimization rates per 1,000 persons or households showed no signifi-

October 1988

The data in this builetin update the preliminary estimates of victimization in 1987, which were released in March of this year. The overall level of crime increased marginally, but the victimization rate remained stable from last year. For each of the past 3 years, the number of crimes has been lower than in any of the preceding 12 years of the National Crime Survey (NCS).

The NCS measures both crimes reported to the police and crimes not reported. Although nearly two-thirds of all NCS crimes, including about half of all violent crimes, are not reported to police, this year's survey indicates once again that reporting rates have increased significantly since the survey first began in 1973.

Joseph M. Bessette Acting Director



Figure

Table 1. Victimization levels for selected crimes, 1973-87

| | | Number of victim | izations (in 1,000' | 's) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Total | Violent crimes | Personal theft | Household crimes |
| 1973 | 35,661 | 5,350 | 14,970 | 15,340 |
| 1974 | 38,411 | 5,510 | 15,889 | 17,012 |
| 1975 | 39,268 | 5,573 | 16,294 | 17,400 |
| 1976 | 39,318 | 5,599 | 16,519 | 17,199 |
| 1977 | 40,314 | 5,902 | 16,933 | 17,480 |
| 1978 | 40,412 | 5,941 | 17,050 | 17,421 |
| 1979 | 41,249 | 6,153 | 18,382 | 18,70 8 |
| 1980 | 40,252 | 8,130 | 15,300 | 18,821 |
| 1981 | 41,454 | 8,582 | 15,863 | 19,009 |
| 1982 | 39,756 | 8,459 | 15,553 | 17,744 |
| 1983 | 37,001 | 5,903 | 14,857 | 16,440 |
| 1984 | 35,544 | 6,021 | 13,789 | 15,733 |
| 1985 | 34,864 | 5,823 | 13,474 | 15,588 |
| 1986 | 34,118 | 5,515 | 13,235 | 15,388 |
| 1987 | 34,731 | 5,661 | 13,344 | 15 ,726 |
| Percent change, 1981-87ª | -18.2% ^b | -14.0% ^b | -15.9% ^b | -17. 3%^b |

*Total victimizations peaked in 1981.

^bThe difference is atatiatically aignificant at the 95% confidence leval.

¹For definition of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey and a description of NCS operations, see <u>Measuring Crime</u>, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75710, Pebruary 1981.

cant change during the year for either personal or household crimes. Among crimes against persons, neither the rates for crimes of violence nor for crimes of theft showed any measurable change. The victimization rate for crimes of violence, however, was about 19% lower than its peak in 1981 (figure 2).

The National Crim² Survey obtains information on crimir l victimizations, whether or not the crime was reported to the police. About 37% of all crimes measured by the NCS were reported to the police, a similar proportion to that recorded in 1986.

| Table 2. | Changes in victimise | ition levels and rates fo | or personal and household crimes | 1986-87 |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|

| | Number o | of victimizati | Percent | Vic | timizatio | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|--------------------|
| | 1986 | 1987 | change 1986-87 | 1986 | 1987 | change 1986-87 |
| All crimes | 34,118 | 34,731 | 1.8%ª | ••• | ••• | ••• |
| Personal crimes | 18,751 | 19,005 | 1.4% | 95.6 | 96.1 | .5% |
| Crimes of violence | 5,515 | 5,661 | 2.6 | 28.1 | 28.6 | 1.8 |
| Completed | 2,049 | 2,086 | 1.8 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 1.0 |
| Attempted | 3,466 | 3,575 | 3.1 | 17.7 | 18.1 | 2.3 |
| Rape ^C | 130 | 141 | 8.4 | .7 | .7 | 7.6 |
| Robbery | 1,009 | 1,030 | 2.1 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 1.3 |
| Completed | 622 | 678 | 9. 1 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 8.2 |
| With injury | 234 | 276 | 17.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 16.9 |
| Without injury | 388 | 402 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.9 |
| Attempted | 337 | 352 | -9.1 | 2.0 | 1.8 | -9.8 |
| With injury | 117 | 97 | -16.7 | .6 | .5 | -17.3 |
| Without injury | 271 | 255 | -5.8 | 1.4 | 1.3 | -6.6 |
| Assault | 4,376 | 4,489 | 2.6 | 22.3 | 22.7 | 1.7 |
| Aggravated | 1,543 | 1,543 | 0_ | 7.9 | 7.8 | 8_ |
| Completed with injury Attempted assault | 562 | 481 | -14.4 ^b | 2.9 | 2.4 | -15.1 ^b |
| with weapon | 981 | 1,062 | 8.3 | 5.0 | 5.4 | 7.4 |
| Simple | 2,833 | 2,946 | 4.0 | 14.4 | 14.9 | 3.1 |
| Completed with injury Attempted assault | 8 2 0 | 862 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| without weapon | 2,013 | 2,084 | 3.5 | 10.3 | 10.5 | 2.7 |
| Crimes of theft | 13,235 | 13,344 | .8 | 67.5 | 67.5 | 0 |
| Completed | 12,402 | 12,510 | .9 | 63.2 | 63.3 | 0 |
| Attempted | 833 | 834 | .1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 7 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 536 | 509 | -5.1 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 5.9 |
| Purse snatching | 163 | 185 | 13.3 | .8 | .9 | 12.4 |
| Pocket picking | 373 | 324 | -13.2 | 1.9 | 1.6 | -13.9 |
| Personal larceny | | | | | | |
| without contact | 12,699 | 12,835 | 1.1 | 64.7 | 64.9 | .3 |
| Completed | 11,895 | 12,064 | 1.4 | 60.6 | 61.0 | .6 |
| Less than \$50 | 5,516 | 5,317 | -3.6 | 28.1 | 26.9 | -4.4_ |
| \$50 or more | 5,731 | 6,163 | 7.5ª | 29.2 | 31.2 | 6.7 |
| Amount not available | 648 | 584 | -9.9 | 3.3 | 3.0 | -10.7 |
| Attempted | 804 | 771 | -4.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | -4.9 |
| Household crimes | 15,368 | 15,726 | 2.3% ^b | 170.0 | 171.4 | .8% |
| Completed | 13,064 | 13,263 | 1.5 | 144.5 | 144.5 | 0 |
| Attempted | 2,304 | 2,463 | 6.9 ^b | 25.5 | 26.8 | 5.3 |
| Household burglary | 5,557 | 5,623 | 1.2 | 61.5 | 61.3 | 3 |
| Completed | 4,307 | 4,277 | 7 | 47.6 | 46.6 | -2.2 |
| Forcible entry | 1,813 | 1,963 | 8.3 | 20.1 | 21.4 | 6.7 |
| Unlawful entry | | | -7.3 ^b | 07.0 | 05.0 | -8.6ª |
| without force | 2,494 | 2,313 | | 27.6 | 25.2 14.7 | |
| Attempted forcible entry | 1,249 | 1,347 | 7.8 | 13.8 | | 6.2 |
| Household larceny | .8,455 | 8,624 | 2.0 | 93.5 | 94.0 | .5 |
| Completed | 7,869 | 8,018 | 1.9 | 87.1 | 87.4 | .4 |
| Less than \$50 | 3,434 | 3,459 | .7 5.1b | 38.0 | 37.7 | 8 |
| \$50 or more | 3,884 | 4,080 | 5.10 | 43.0 | 44.5 | 3.5 |
| Amount not available | 551 | 479 | -13.2b | 6.1 | 5.2 | -14.5 |
| Attempted | 586 | 607 | 3.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 2.0 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,356 | 1,479 | 9.1 | 15.0 | 16.1 | 7.4 |
| Completed | 888 | 969 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 10.6 | 7.5 |
| Attempted | 468 | 510 | 8.9 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 7.3 |

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded figures. Victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 and older or per 1,000 households. The population age 12 and older grew from 196,160,200 in 1986 to 197,789.500 in 1987, an increase of 0.8%. The number of households grew from 90,394,700 to 91,764,600 between 1986 and 1987, an increase of 1.5%.

...Not applicable.

Tha difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

The difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

There were 1.2 rapes per 1,000 women age 12 and older in 1986 and 1.3 in 1987.

For the first time, differences in criminal victimizations were examined among the Nation's four regions-Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. For both personal and household crimes, people in the West experienced the highest rate of victimization, at 125.4 per 1,000 persons and 222.8 per 1,000 households, respectively. The Midwest and South had the next two highest rates for personal crimes at 101.3 and 91 per 1,000 persons, respectively; however, for household crimes, the South had a higher rate than the Midwest (179.1 and 166 per 1,000 households, respectively). The Northeast had the lowest victimization rate for both personal and household crimes (70.7 per 1,000 persons and 115.9 per 1,000 households, respectively).

Personal crimes were stable

The victimization rate per 1,000 persons for all personal crimes combined-rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny-remained basically unchanged between 1986 and 1987; there were also no measurable changes in any major category of crimes against persons (table 2).

Among the specific categories of crimes of violence, however, there was one significant change in victimization rates from 1986: Aggravated assault w'.h injury decreased by 15%, from 2.9 to 2.4 per 1,000 persons. The rate of assault, which had remained stable for the 3 years prior to 1986, was 6% lower than the 1985 rate (tables 3 and 4). The rate in 1987--22.7 victimizations per 1,000 persons--was 17% lower than its high point in 1979 (figure 2). The robbery rate for 1987 was lower than that for any year between 1973 and 1983. Since 1984, however, there has been no measurable change in the rate for robbery.

As in crimes of violence, there was no measurable difference in the overall rate of personal crimes of theft between 1986 and 1987. The only significant increase was in completed personal larceny without contact with a loss of more than \$50--up by 7% from 29.2 to 31.2 per 1,000 persons. The victimization rate for personal crimes of theft was about 31% lower than its peak in 1977—down to 67.5 from 97.3 per 1,000 persons.

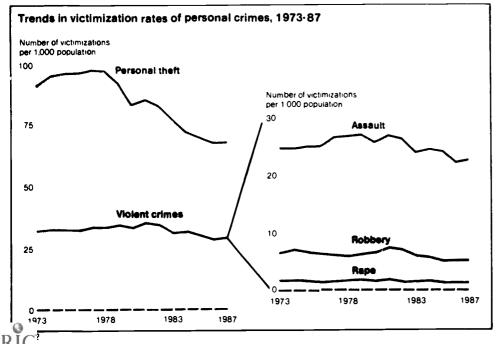
There were no measurable changes in the rates for rape and some of the smaller categories of personal crimes, such as purse snatching and pocket picking, possibly because these crimes occur far less often than other cate-

Table 3. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973-87 Victimization rates per 1,000 persons age 12 and older or per 1,000 households 1986 1987 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 96.1 99.4 95.6 128.9 128.7 131.2 130.5 126.4 116.3 120.5 116.8 107.9 103.2 123.6 Personal crimes 33.3 34.3 31.4 30.0 28.1 28.6 32.6 33.9 33.7 34.5 33.0 Crimes of violence 32.6 32.8 .9 1.0 1.0 1.0 .8 Rape 6.2 7.1 5.7 5.1 5.1 5.2 6.8 Robbery 6.7 7.2 22.7 26.8 26.9 27.2 25.8 27.0 26.4 24.1 24.7 24.2 22.3 24.9 24.8 25.2 25.3 Assault 10.4 10.0 9.7 9.9 9.6 9.3 8.0 9.0 8.3 7.9 7.8 10.1 Aggravated 14.9 Simple 15.4 16.8 17.2 17.3 16.5 17.3 17.1 16.2 15.7 15.9 14.4 14.8 14.4 15.6 83.0 85.1 82.5 76.9 71.8 69.4 67.5 67.5 96.1 97.3 96.8 91.9 91.1 95.1 96.0 Crimes of theft Personal larceny 3.1 3.1 3.1 2.9 2.7 3.1 2.9 3.0 3.3 3.1 3.0 2.8 2.7 2.7 2.6 with contact Personal larceny 93.2 94.6 93.6 89.0 80.0 81.9 79.5 74.0 69.1 66.7 64.7 64.9 88.0 92.0 92.9 without contact 171.4 236.5 229.5 228.8 223.4 235.3 227.4 226.0 208.2 189.8 178.7 174.4 170.0 217.8 235.7 Household crimes 84.3 87.9 78.2 70.0 64.1 62.7 61.5 61.3 93.1 91.7 88.9 88.5 86.0 84.1 91.7 Household burglary 113.9 99.4 97.5 93.5 94.0 133.7 126.5 121.0 105.2 123.3 119.9 Household larceny 107.0 123.8 125.4 124.1 15.2 14.2 15.0 16.1 17.0 17.5 16.7 17.1 16.2 14.6 Motor vehicle theft 19.1 18.8 19.5 16.5 17.5

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of the rate rounding. Statistically significant differences between table 4.

the rates for 1987 and each preceding year are identified in table 4.

| | | Percent change in victimization rates | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1973-87 | 1974-87 | 1975-87 | 1976-87 | 1977-87 | 1978-87 | 1979-87 | 1980-87 | 1981-87 | 1982-87 | 1983-87 | 1984-87 | 1985-87 | 1986-87 |
| Personal crimes | -22.3% | -25.0% | -25.4% | -25.3% | -26.7% | -26.4% | -24.0% | -17.3% | -20.2% | -17.7% | -11.0% | -6.9% | -3.3% | .5%* |
| Crimes of violence | -12.1 | -13.2 | -12.9 | -12.1 | -15.6 | -15.1 | -17.1 | -14.0 | -19.0 | -16.5 | -7.6 | -8.7 | -4.6* | 1.8* |
| Rape | -25.3* | -27.6 | -22.0* | -15.5* | -20.2* | -26.8* | -34.3 | -24.5* | -25.3* | -12.3* | -12.0* | -24.0* | 3* | 7.6* |
| Robbery | -22.7 | -27.4 | -22.9 | -19.3 | -16.2 | -11.5 | -16.8 | -20.6 | -29.7 | -26.4 | -13.6 | -8.8* | 2.7* | 1.3* |
| Assault | -8.7 | -8.6 | -9.8 | -10.2 | -15.3 | -15.5 | -16.6 | -11.8 | -15.8 | -13.9 | -6.0 | -8.2 | -6.2 | 1.7* |
| Aggravated | -22.5 | -24.9 | -18.8 | -20.9 | -21.8 | -19.5 | -21.4 | -15.8 | -19.1 | -16.2 | -2.0* | -13.3 | -5.6* | 8* |
| Simple | .7* | 3.2* | -4.2* | -3.3* | -11.4 | -13.2 | -13.8 | -9.6 | -14.0 | -12.8 | -7.9 | -5.2* | -6.6* | 3.1* |
| Crimes of theft Personal larceny | -25.9 | -29.1 | -29.7 | -29.8 | -30.6 | -30.3 | -26.6 | -18.7 | -20.7 | -18.2 | -12.3 | -6.1 | -2.8* | 0+ |
| with contact Personal larceny | -16.3 | -17.4 | -16.8 | -11.1* | -3.0* | -17.6 | -10.5* | -15.2* | -20.9 | -16.0 | -12.9* | -6.8* | -4.5* | -5.9* |
| without contact | -26.3 | -29.5 | -30.2 | -30.4 | -31.4 | -30.7 | -27.1 | -18.9 | -20.7 | -18.3 | -12.3 | -6.0 | -2.7* | .3* |
| Household crimes | -21.3% | -27.3% | -27.5% | -25.3% | -25.1% | -23.3% | -27.2% | -24.6% | -24.2% | -17.7% | -9.7% | -4.1% | -1.7%* | .8%* |
| Household burglary | -33.2 | -34.2 | -33.2 | -31.1 | -30.8 | -28.7 | -27.1 | -27.3 | -30.3 | -21.6 | -12.4 | -4.4* | -2.2* | 3* |
| Household larceny | -12.2 | -24.1 | -25.0 | -24.3 | -23.8 | -21.6 | -29.7 | -25.7 | -22.3 | -17.5 | -10.7 | -5.4 | -3.6* | .5* |
| Motor vehicle theft | | -14.4 | -17.3 | -2.2* | -5.1* | -8.0* | -8.0* | -3.5* | -5.8* | 3* | 10.5* | 5.9* | 13.2 | 7.4* |



gories of personal crimes; consequently, actual changes in their levels or rates are much more difficult to measure.

Household crimes show a slight increase

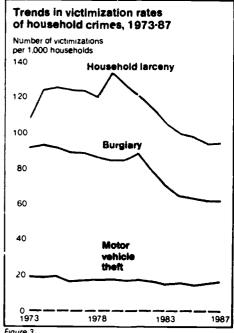
The overall number of household crimes increased marginally between 1986 and 1987, showing a 2.3% change. However, the overall victimization rate per 1,000 households as well as individual rates for the three categories of household crimes measured by the NCS-burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft--remained basically unchanged between 1986 and 1987.

The rate for turglary was 61.3 per 1,000 households; household larceny occurred at a rate of 94 per 1,000 households; and motor vehicle theft occurred at a rate of 16.1 per 1,000 households. The burglary rate was lower than for any year between 1973 and 1983, though it has not been measurably different since 1984 (figure 3). The overall household larceny rate was lower than for any time between 1973 and 1984.

West shows highest crime rates

in 1987 the West was the region most vulnerable to crime in the Nation. Personal crimes and household crimes occurred at rates of 125.4 per 1,000 persons and 222.8 per 1,000 households. respectively (table 5). The Northeast was the least vulnerable to crime: the personal crime rate was 70.7 per 1,000 persons, and the household crime rate was 115.9 per 1,000 households. The Midwest experienced a higher personal crime rate than the South (101.3 versus 91 per 1,000 persons, respectively). However, for the household crimes, the South had a higher victimization rate than the Midwest (179.1 versus 166 per 1,000 households, respectively).

Between 1986 and 1987 the West was the only region to show an increase in its personal crime rate (8.6%). The South had a 4.8% decrease in its personal crime rate from last year, and neither the Northeast nor the Midwest had measurable changes in their personal crime rates. The yearly rate of change in personal crime rates was also greater for the West than for the Northeast or the South. None of the regions experienced a significant change in household crimes from last year.



| Table 5. | Victimization rates | for persona | l and household | crimes, by | region, | 1986-87 |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------|---------|
|----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------|---------|

| | | Northea: | <u> </u> | - | Midwes | <u>t </u> | | South | or per 1,00 | West | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| | 1986 | 1987 | Percent change 1986-87 | 1986 | 1987 | Percent change 1986-87 | 1986 | 1987 | Percent change 1986-87 | 1986 | 1987 | Percent change 1986-87 |
| Personal Crimes | 72.6 | 70.7 | -2.6% | 99.3 | 101.3 | 1.9% | 95.5 | 91.0 | -4.8% ^b | 115.4 | 125.4 | 8.6%ª |
| Crimes of violence | 20.7 | 21.1 | 2.1 | 30.7 | 31.4 | 2.5 | 27.3 | 26.6 | -2.5 | 34.1 | 36.5 | 6.9 |
| Robbery | 5.1 | 5.9 | 16.4 | 5.8 | 4.9 | -15.2 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 4.8 |
| Assa ult | 15.4 | 14.6 | -5.3 | 24.1 | 25.8 | 6.9 | 22.2 | 21.4 | -3.6 | 27.6 | 29.7 | 7.6 |
| Aggravated | 1.8 | 4.5 | -5.9 | 7.2 | 7.9 | 10.3 | 9.5 | 7.9 | -17.6ª | 9.2 | 11.1 | 20.7 |
| Simple | 10.6 | 10.0 | -5.0 | 17.0 | 17.9 | 5.5 | 12.7 | 13.5 | 7.0 | 18.5 | 18.7 | 1.0 |
| Crimes of theft Personal larceny | 51.9 | 49.6 | -4.5 | 68.7 | 69.8 | 1.7 | 68.2 | 64.3 | -5.7b | 81.3 | 88.9 | 9.4ª |
| with contact Personal larceny | 4.1 | 3.6 | -13.0 | 2.4 | 2.4 | -2.6 | 2.1 | 1.8 | -11.3 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 9.2 |
| without contact | 47.8 | 46.0 | -3.8 | 66.2 | 67.5 | 1.8 | 66.1 | 62.5 | -5.5 ^b | 78.5 | 85.9 | 9.4ª |
| Total population age 12 and over (in 1,000's) | 41,551 | 41,648 | .2 | 40 162 | 40.000 | | | | | | | |
| = 114 Over (m 1,000 s/ | 41,551 | 41,040 | .2 | 49,163 | 48,986 | 4 | 66,462 | 67,822 | 2.0 | 38,984 | 39,313 | .8 |
| Housebold crimes | 114.8 | 115.9 | 1.0% | 169.6 | 166.0 | -2.2% | 179.2 | 179.1 | 1% | 212.7 | 222.8 | 4.7% |
| Household burglary | 38.6 | 40.7 | 5.4 | 63.6 | 59.1 | -7.0 | 68.5 | 70.6 | 3.1 | 71.0 | 69.6 | -2.0 |
| Household larceny | 59.4 | 60.2 | 1.3 | 91.1 | 91.8 | .8 | 98.6 | 94.1 | -4.6 | 123.7 | 131.6 | 6.4 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 16.7 | 15.0 | -10.4 | 15.0 | 15.0 | .3 | 12.2 | 14.4 | 18.2 | 18.0 | 21.6 | 20.2 |
| Total number of households | | | | | | | 2 | | | -500 | - 1.0 | |
| (in 1,000's) | 18,967 | 19,176 | 1.1 | 22,891 | 22.870 | 1 | 30,369 | 31,293 | 3.0 | 18,168 | 18,425 | 1.4 |

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded numbers. Rape rates are included in crimes of violence but are not shown separately because of too few sample cases within each region for statistically reliable comparisons.

^aThe difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.
The difference is statistically significant at the

90% confidence level.

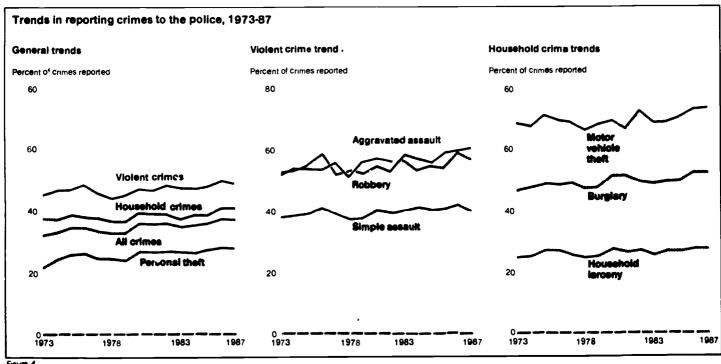


Police reporting remains at the highest level recorded

About 37% of all NCS crimes in 1987 were reported to the police, the same as the 1986 reporting level. The 1987 rate of reporting for all NCS crimes remained at the highest level ever recorded by the NCS and was 14% higher than the 1973 reporting rate (table 6 and figure 4). About half of all violent crimes, two-fifths of all household crimes, and slightly more than a fourth of all crimes of personal theft were reported to the police.

The proportion of all crimes reported to the police in 1987 was similar to the level recorded during 1986. As in the past, motor vehicle theft, with roughly 7 in every 10 incidents reported to the police, had the highest level of reporting; personal larceny without contact and household larceny had the lowest levels, with about 1 in every 4 cases reported to the police.

Table 6. Reporting victimizations to the solice, 1973-87 Percent of victimizations reported to the police 36% 35% 35% 36% 37% 37% All crime. 32% 33% 35% 35% 34% 33% 35% 32% 30% 30% 30% 33% 32% 33% 34% 34% 34% 28% 30% 32% 33% 33% Personal crimes 45* AR Crimes of violence Rape Robbery Assault 52 Aggravated Simple Crimes of theft _6 Personal larceny with contact Personal larceny without contact 41% 41% 38% 37% 39% 38% 38% 36% 36% 39% 39% 39% 38% 39% Household crimes Household burglary Household larceny Motor vehicle theft







The National Crime Survey

The NCS measures selected personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to the police, through interviews at 6-month intervals with the occupants of housing units that make up a representative rational sample. During 1987 some 93,000 persons-occupants of about 46,000 housing units-participated in the survey. Interviews are administered monthly to a sixth of the sample according to a rotation schedule. Information pertaining to the previous 6 months is gathered at each interview.

Over a 6-month interval in 1987. approximately 3,400 households were designated to be interviewed using a new technique called computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Data from households in these interview areas are excluded from this report in order to study the effect of this new interview procedure on the designated households. Adjustments were made in the NCS weighting to compensate for the exclusion of these CATI cases in the 1987 data. It is anticipated that data collected from CATI-designated households will be included in the Criminal Victimization 1988 bulletin and final report. At that time, 1987 data will be retabulated to include CATI-designated households in order to provide a common basis of comparison between criminal victimization data for 1988 and 1987.

Preliminary estimates and sampling error

In March 1988 the Bureau of Justice Statistics released preliminary NCS victimization levels and rates as well as police reporting data for 1987. When levels and rates of victimization for the early 1987 estimates are compared to the final 1987 results, the procedure used in calculating the preliminary estimates appears to have yielded fairly reliable indicators of both magnitude and change in criminal victimization during 1987 (table 7). For example, the 1987 preliminary rate for assault was 8.0 per 1,000 persons; the final rate was 7.8.

Table 7. Preliminary estimates and final results for 1987 victimization levels and rates

| | Numb | oer of victin (in 1,000 | | Victimization rates | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|--|
| | Prelim- inary | Final | Percent change | Prelim- inary | final | rercent change | |
| Personal crimes | 18,997 | 19,005 | 0% | 96.1 | 96.1 | 0% | |
| Crimes of violence | 5,540 | 5,461 | 2.2 | 28.0 | 28.6 | 2.2 | |
| Rape | 113 | 141 | 24.9 | .6 | .7 | 21.7 | |
| Robbery | 1.046 | 1,630 | -1.5 | 5.3 | 5.2 | -1.5 | |
| Assault | 4,385 | 4,489 | 2.4 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 2.4 | |
| Aggravated | 1,575 | 1,543 | -2.0 | 8.0 | 7.8 | -2.0 | |
| Simple | 2,809 | 2,946 | 4.9 | 14.2 | 14.9 | 4.9 | |
| Crimes of theft | 13,458 | 13,344 | 8 | 68.1 | 67.5 | 9 | |
| Personal larceny | | | | | | | |
| with contact Personal larceny | 515 | 509 | -1.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | -1.3 | |
| without contact | 12,943 | 12,835 | 8 | 65.5 | 64.9 | 8 | |
| Household crimes | 15,423 | 15,726 | 2.0% | 168.1 | 171.4 | 2.0% | |
| Household burglary | 5,395 | 5,623 | 4.2 | 58.8 | 61.3 | 4.2 | |
| Household larceny | 8,476 | 8,624 | 1.2 | 32.4 | 94.0 | 1.7 | |
| Motor vehicle theft | 1,564 | 1,479 | -5.4 | 17.0 | 16.1 | -5.5 | |

Note: Numbers and rates may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Percent change is based on unrounded numbers.

Data collected in the NCS are obtained from a sample and not from a complete enumeration. Consequently, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each number in the report, including the numbers measuring change. In general, if the difference between two numbers is greater than twice the standard error for that difference, we can say that we are 95% confident that the two numbers are in fact different; that is, the apparent difference is not simply the result of surveying a sample rather than the entire population. If the difference is greater than 1.6 standard errors, we are 90% confident that the two numbers are different. All comparisons made in the text are at or above the 90% confidence level. When differences between two numbers are below the 90% confidence level, the two numbers are described in the text as "not measurably different."

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²For a complete discussion of preliminary estimation procedures, see <u>Criminal letimization</u> 1983, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-93869, June 1984.

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